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REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to an Office Action mailed December 19, 2006. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein.

Claims 1-28 remain in the present application.

In the December 19, 2006 Office action, Claims 10, 11, 13-19, and 28 were allowable but objected to for being dependent upon rejected base claims. Applicant has amended claims 10, 11, 13-19, and 28 to place them in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the objections to claims 10, 11, 13-19, and 28 have been overcome.

In the December 19, 2006 Office Action, claims 1, 2, 7, 20, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese publication JP 11-284992 A by Masahiro Ono (hereinafter "Ono"). Applicant has amended the claims to more clearly distinguish over Ono. For example, amended claim 1 states:

A method comprising:

- receiving an input voltage for a digital power rail of a display;
- regulating the input voltage to a start-up voltage during a start-up period, said start-up period comprising a predetermined length of time; and
- regulating the input voltage to a steady-state voltage after the start-up period, said steady-state voltage being lower than the start-up voltage.

In amended claim 1, an input voltage for a display is regulated to a higher start-up voltage during a predetermined period of time, and then regulated to lower steady state voltage after the predetermined start-up period.

Ono is directed to a video intercom system for which a visitor is photographed by a camera in one location and the visitor's image is displayed on an LCD unit in another location (Ono; Title and Abstract). Ono's goal is to ensure that the visitor is sharply displayed "from the start-up" (Ono; Problem to be Solved). Specifically, Ono describes providing a higher voltage, compared to a steady state voltage, to the LCD's backlight to display the visitor "with a sufficient luminance from the start-up" (Ono; Solution).

The description in Ono is very short and cryptic. It is not at all clear what "from the start-up" means. Since the system being described is a video intercom, and the goal is to sharply display a visitor, and the solution is to increase the display's luminance "from the start-up," one possible interpretation is that Ono increases the backlight voltage while a visitor uses the intercom. In which case, the voltage would be increased for some arbitrary length of time.

Even if some other interpretation of Ono is possible from the short and cryptic description, Ono clearly states that the backlight voltage is increased "from the start-up," as opposed to "during" a start-up period of time.

In which case, Applicant respectfully submits that Ono does not suggest, disclose, or enable, nor provide any motivation whatsoever for, increasing a voltage for a display for a "start-up period comprising a predetermined length of time," as claimed in amended claim 1.

Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is patentable over Ono.

Applicant respectfully submits that the reasoning presented above similarly applies to claims 2, 7, 20, and 24, as amended. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 7, 20, and 24 are patentable over Ono.

In the December 19, 2006 Office Action, claims 3-5, 12, 21, 22, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ono in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,727,681 issued to Akira Morita (hereinafter "Morita").

Applicant respectfully submits that the reasoning presented above with respect to Ono similarly applies to claims 3-5, 12, 21, 22, and 27. Morita was cited for teaching that a start-up voltage is substantially equal to an input voltage. Assuming for the sake of argument that the Office Action is correct with respect to the teachings of Morita, Applicant respectfully submits that Morita does not cure the deficiencies of Ono as discussed above. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-5, 12, 21, 22, and 27 are patentable over Ono in view of Morita.

In the December 19, 2006 Office Action, claims 6, 8, 9, 23, 25, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ono in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,927,989 issued to Kenichi Fukumoto (hereinafter "Fukumoto").

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Applicant respectfully submits that the reasoning presented above with respect to Ono similarly applies to claims 6, 8, 9, 23, 25, and 26. Fukumoto was cited for teaching a pulse width modulator with different duty ratios. Assuming for the sake of argument that the Office Action is correct with respect to the teachings of Fukumoto, Applicant respectfully submits that Fukumoto does not cure the deficiencies of Ono as discussed above. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6, 8, 9, 23, 25, and 26 are patentable over Ono in view of Fukumoto.

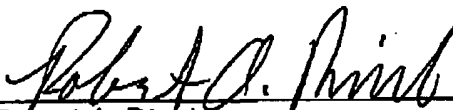
In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-28 are now in a condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of such claims.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to our Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

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